

# CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **Sequoias Community College District's Center on Agriculture Science and Technology Approved by the California Postsecondary Education Commission**

**April 18, 2001- Sacramento** – The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has unanimously approved the establishment of a new off-campus community college center devoted to agriculture science and technology in southern Tulare County.

Part of the Sequoias Community College District, the new facility will be known as the Center for Agriculture Science and Technology. Contingent on available state capital outlay funding, the proposed center will open in 2005 and serve an estimated 1,148 full-time equivalent students (FTES).

"The presence of a new off-campus center near the City of Tulare provides area residents greater access to educational opportunities and will no doubt contribute to the economic vitality of that region," stated Commission Executive Director Warren H. Fox.

The agriculture center will enable Sequoias Community College to establish a new comprehensive educational center in the south part of Tulare County and the surrounding region. It will offer a broad curriculum, such as dairy science, agribusiness, general education and transfer preparation, college preparatory, and child development and elementary teacher preparation. It will also provide a new state-of-the-art facility for its agriculture laboratory now housed in Visalia.

Following the Commission's action, Fox wrote the Governor and Legislature that he was "pleased to report that California Postsecondary Education Commission has completed its

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review of a proposal submitted by the Sequoias Community College District for the establishment of a new off-campus center to be known as the Center for Agriculture Science and Technology.” Fox said the Commission “has found that the proposal meets its established review criteria for new off-campus centers” and has recommended to the Governor and the Legislature that the State authorize the development of the new center.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission is the state’s planning and coordinating organization for higher education. The state's Education Code expresses the intent of the Legislature that the sites for new institutions or branches of public postsecondary education will not be authorized or acquired unless recommended by the Commission.

The Commission consists of 16 members, nine of whom represent the general public, five who represent the major systems of California education (the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, the independent colleges and universities, and the State Board of Education), and two student representatives. Further information about higher education in California may be obtained through the website of the Postsecondary Education Commission at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov>.